



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

FEB 16 2000

James Bopp, Jr., Esquire
Bopp, Coleson & Bostrom
21 South 6th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47807-3510

RE: MUR 4766
Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.
Lorillard Tobacco Company
Philip Morris Incorporated
R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company
United States Tobacco Company

Dear Mr. Bopp:

On July 2, 1998, the Federal Election Commission notified your clients, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation, Lorillard Tobacco Company, Philip Morris Incorporated, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and United States Tobacco Company, of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, ("the Act").

On February 10, 2000, the Commission found, on the basis of information in the complaint and information provided by you, that there is no reason to believe your clients violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b. The Commission has closed the file in this matter. A copy of the First General Counsel's Report is enclosed for your information.


The confidentiality provisions at 2 U.S.C. §437g(a)(12) no longer apply, and this matter is now public. In addition, although the complete file must be placed on the public record within 30 days, this could occur at any time following certification of the Commission's vote. If you wish to submit any factual or legal materials to appear on the public record, please do so as soon as possible. While the file may be placed on the public record before receiving your additional materials, any permissible submission will be added to the record upon receipt.

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If you have any questions, please contact Anne A. Weissenborn, the senior attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel


BY: Lois G. Lerner
Associate General Counsel

Enclosure
First General Counsel's Report